

Application No. 10/663,515
Response to 4 October 2004 Non-Final Office Action

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1) deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2) added matter is shown by underlining.

1-10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A seat mounting device for a vehicle seat, comprising:
at least one locking mechanism provided on one of a vehicle seat and a vehicle body,
an engagement member provided on the other of the vehicle seat and the vehicle body
and arranged and constructed to be locked by the locking mechanism, and
an operation member for unlocking the locking mechanism, the operation member
comprising a manipulation portion and an operation portion,
wherein the locking mechanism has a hook that engages the engagement member and a
pawl that engages the hook and maintains it in a locking position, [[and]] wherein when the
operation member is operated, the manipulation portion is moved relative to the operation
portion so as to engage and move the pawl, thereby disengaging the pawl from the hook, and
wherein when the operation member is further operated, the manipulation portion is disengaged
from the pawl, and then the operation portion is moved together with the manipulation portion so
as to act and move the hook, thereby moving the hook to an unlocking position.

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12. (Original) A seat mounting device as defined in claim 11, wherein the at least one locking mechanism comprises two or more locking mechanisms.

13. (Original) A seat mounting device as defined in claim 12, wherein the locking mechanisms are interconnected via an interconnecting member, so as to be synchronously operated each other.

14. (Currently Amended) A seat mounting device as defined in claim 11, wherein the at least one locking mechanism and the engagement member are respectively provided on the vehicle body and the vehicle seat.

15. (Original) A seat mounting device as defined in claim 14, wherein the engagement member is arranged and constructed to function as a grip for handling the seat.

16. (Original) A seat mounting device as defined in claim 11, wherein the at least one locking mechanism comprises a first rod connected to the hook, a second rod connected to the pawl and a spring attached to the first rod, the first and second rods being linked to the operation member, and wherein the spring is arranged and constructed to force the hook to the locking position when the operation member is not operated and to force the hook to the unlocking position when the operation member is operated.

Please add new claim 17 as follows:

17. (New) A locking mechanism used in a seat mounting device for a vehicle seat, comprising:

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a hook having a slot and a projected portion,

a pawl,

a first spring, and

a second spring,

wherein the slot of the hook is arranged and constructed to engage an engagement member,

wherein the pawl is disposed adjacent to the hook such that the hook is positioned between the engagement member and the pawl,

wherein the first spring is arranged and constructed to rotationally bias the hook such that a biasing direction of the hook is turned over in the course of rotation from its locking position to its unlocking position,

wherein the second spring is arranged and constructed to rotationally bias the pawl toward the hook, and

wherein the pawl is arranged and constructed to engage one side of the projected portion of the hook when the hook is in the locking position and to engage the other side of the projected portion of the hook when the hook is in the unlocking position.